

Message Text

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FCA:BKMEEKER

AA:WHORBALY / EUR/CE - JWARD

FAS:JBESHOAR

FAS:DLHUME

AGRIC:ERBEVIS

STATE:EB/ORF/OFD:JAFERCH

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR,GE

SUBJECT: US-GDR GRAIN CONSULTATIONS

REFERENCE (A) BERLIN 5611

(B) BERLIN 5530

1. AT FIRST US-GDR MEETING ON GRAIN TRADE HELD IN WASHINGTON LAST NOVEMBER, IT WAS AGREED THAT THE TWO GOVERNMENTS WOULD MEET REGULARLY TO DISCUSS INFORMAL UNDERSTANDINGS ON GRAIN TRADE. WE BELIEVE THAT GRAIN MEETINGS REPRESENT EXCELLENT FORUM FOR BOTH SIDES TO KEEP EACH OTHER ABREAST OF RESPECTIVE SUPPLY-DEMAND SITUATIONS. DURING
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INFORMAL GATHERING AT TIME OF NOVEMBER DISCUSSIONS, DR. F. SCHMIED OF DR. BEIL'S STAFF SUGGESTED THAT NEXT SESSION COULD PERHAPS BE HELD IN SPRING OF 1977, BUT THE MATTER WAS LEFT OPEN.

2. SINCE NEXT SESSION OF CONSULTATIONS WOULD PROBABLY BE HOSTED BY GDR IN EAST BERLIN, INITIATIVE SHOULD PERHAPS

COME FROM GDR. NEVERTHELESS, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF REFERENCE B, EMBASSY SHOULD NOW COMMUNICATE WITH DR. BEIL OR DR. SCHMIED. SPECIFICALLY, YOU SHOULD REAFFIRM USG INTEREST IN CONTINUING WITH GDR THE RELATIONSHIP ON GRAIN MATTERS WHICH WAS INITIATED WITH MEETINGS LAST NOVEMBER. ALSO, YOU SHOULD INDICATE THAT WE LOOK FORWARD TO NEXT

SESSION OF CONSULTATIONS.

3. SUGGESTING OF DATES, AGENDA, ETC. WILL BE LEFT TO GDR INITIATIVE. HOWEVER, IF QUESTIONED EMBASSY SHOULD DRAW ON FOLLOWING. MEMBERSHIP U.S. DELEGATION WOULD BE SIMILAR TO NOVEMBER, PROBABLY HEADED BY USDA ASST. SECRETARY DESIGNATE DALE HATHAWAY. U.S. HAS NO PARTICULAR SUGGESTION AS TO DATE OF NEXT CONSULTATION, BUT HOPEFULLY GDR COULD OFFER A CHOICE OF AT LEAST TWO ALTERNATIVE DATES. HATHAWAY ALREADY HAS COMMITMENT FOR WEEK OF MAY 30-JUNE 3. WE SUGGEST AGENDA SIMILAR TO NOVEMBER FORMAT, I.E., DISCUSSION OF SUPPLY/DEMAND SITUATION, OUTLOOK FOR TRADE, ETC.

4. WE NOTE FORTHCOMING VISIT BY NAHRUNG OFFICIALS TO NEW YORK BUT PRESUME THAT UNLESS FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS WERE TO ALSO VISIT U.S. AT ABOUT THAT TIME, THE PURCHASING VISIT TO NEW YORK WOULD NOT APPEAR TO PRESENT OPPORTUNITY FOR CONSULTATIONS TO BE HELD IN WASHINGTON AGAIN AT THIS TIME. IN THE EVENT THIS IS INCORRECT, WE WOULD OF COURSE BE PLEASED TO HOST THE NEXT MEETING, PROVIDING A DATE COULD BE AGREED. FRANKLY, BECAUSE OF HEAVY WASHINGTON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SCHEDULE THIS SPRING FOR INCOMING ASSISTANT SECRETARY DESIGNATE HATHAWAY, ON MATTERS SUCH AS NEW FARM LEGISLATION, IT WOULD ACTUALLY BE PREFERABLE IF THIS NEXT SESSION COULD BE HELD IN WASHINGTON. IF THIS WERE DONE, THE U.S. SIDE COULD PLAN TO TRAVEL TO EAST BERLIN FOR SUBSEQUENT MEETING LATER THIS YEAR. PLEASE ADVISE.
VANCE

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